



living spaces

Article contribution courtesy of **Amy Lauerhass**,
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Residential Landscaping

DISCOVER THE BENEFITS.

Isn't Your Home Worth It?



Lauerhass Architecture

*Specializing in Renovating Bexley Homes
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Landscaping says a lot about a home. It's the primary element in curb appeal, setting the tone for the rest of your home's design, both interior and exterior. Take the four pictures included, for example. Two are of beautiful homes in Bexley with fantastic landscapes. The other two are gorgeous houses as well but are sorely lacking in curb appeal, due to a lack of softening by landscaping. However, landscaping offers more than just simple aesthetic benefits.

Increases Home Value

Potential home buyers form their first impression of a home from its curb appeal. Yet often a home's outdoor landscaping is overlooked or underdone. Most experts agree that an attractive and well-maintained landscape can add as much as 10% to the value of your home.

Water Control

Landscaping also allows homeowners to control storm runoff and drainage. When it rains, water should flow away from your home. If it collects around the base of your home, it can cause significant property damage, creating an ideal environment for rot and mold. Professional landscaping can protect against these problems by ensuring your lawn and gardens have proper runoff and drainage.

Promotes Outdoor Living

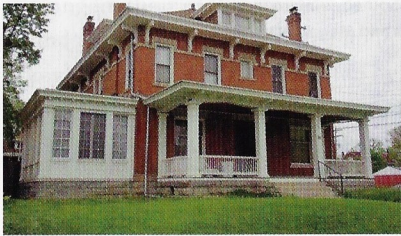
A well-designed landscape promotes outdoor living by creating an attractive, functional environment. Homeowners and their families can enjoy evenings on their patio or deck, with a beautiful landscape setting the tone in the background. It's a known fact that plants improve the quality of our air. Did you know that one tree could remove from the atmosphere around 26 pounds of carbon dioxide per year? When the proper tree is selected, it can also absorb sound waves and reduce noise pollution by absorbing unwanted sound.

Energy Efficiency

A lesser-known benefit of landscaping is its ability to reduce a home's overall energy usage. Strategically placed trees and shrubs create shade, which in turn reduces cooling costs during the summer. One study found that trees shading a home's roof make the inside up to 10 degrees cooler.

Landscaping is important for many more reasons beyond simply having a lovely yard. However, there are many cases when the house itself has stretched your budget, and the ability to properly landscape is lost. You may think that attempting to complete your own landscaping on a shoestring budget is ideal. However, budgeting an amount for landscaping from the start is a much smarter path.

Hiring a professional to design a plan is money well spent. Be wary of nurseries that offer "free design." Their main goal is to sell plants, so many times the design will be over-planted, and difficult to maintain over time. A landscape architect is a great resource and can help you create a plan that is affordable and low maintenance.



Also, most landscape plans can be implemented over a few years to help with budgeting. Landscapes are important because they contribute significantly to our well-being and quality of life. They provide the broader context within which we live our lives. Living within aesthetically pleasing landscapes enhances our sense of well-being, enables us to re-connect with nature, and allows us to refresh their minds and bodies.